Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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UNCLAS USUN 5985

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, FR, CN

SUBJ: COMOROS

REF: USUN 5918

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOVEMBER 13 LETTER FROM FRENCH DEPUTY PERM REP TO PRESIDENT OF GA CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE DURING NOVEMBER 13 PLENARY MEETING WHICH ADMITTED COMOROS TO UN:

QUOTE

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT CERTAIN STATEMENTS MADE AT THE 2402ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALL FOR THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION:

1. APART FROM A UNIT OF 185 MEN STATIONED ON MAYOTTE AND QUARTERED WITHIN A TOTAL AREA OF LESS THAN HALF A HECTARE, THERE IS NO LAND, AIR OR NAVAL INSTALLATIONS ON THAT ISLAND. FRANCE, WHICH FOR DECADES HAS SET UP NO MILITARY BASE THERE, CERTAINLY DOES NOT ENVISAGE DOING SO NOW.

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2. AS SOON AS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT LEARNT THAT COMORIANS BORN IN

THE OTHER ISLANDS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO HAD LEFT MAYOTTE, IT CALLED FOR A LEGAL INVESTIGATION.

THE INITIAL FINDINGS OF THIS INVESTIGATION INDICATE THAT THE NUMBER LEAVING THE ISLAND WAS LIMITED TO SEVERAL HUNDRED, AND NOT SEVERAL THOUSAND AS WAS STATED. IN ADDITION, MANY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED WERE COMORIANS WHO HAD SETTLED IN MAYOTTE VERY RECENTLY.

I NEED HARDLY MENTION THAT THE FRENCH LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXERCISE PARTICULAR VIGILANCE TO ENSURE THAT NO PRESSURE, OF WHATEVER KIND, MAY CAUSE ANYONE TO LEAVE MAYOTTE AGAINST HIS WILL.

I SHOULD BE OBLIGED IF YOU WOULD CIRCULATE THE TEXT OF THIS COMMUNICATION AS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT UNDER AGENDA ITEM 22.

(SIGNED) JACQUES LECOMPT
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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